

He Is Risen!

the Spire
April 2021



Staff Directory:

Rev. Dr. Tim Phillips (x104)

Lead Pastor

tim@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Rev. Anita Peebles (x106)

Associate Pastor: Next Gen Ministries

anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Rev. Dr. Patricia L. Hunter

Pastor of Education & Outreach

patricia@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Ben Luedcke

Minister of Music

ben@seattlefirstbaptist.org

David C. Horton

Organist

david@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Darren Hochstedler (x102)

Church Administrator

Darren@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Sue Ross

Community Nurse

nurse@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Judie Scott (x101)

Office Administrator

Front_office@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Katie Sturm

Communications

katie@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Submissions for the Spire are due by the 20th of the month prior.

All submissions should be sent to editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Table of Contents

2-3	From the Pastor's Desk
3-4	Worship Together (Re-Gathering & Celebrations)
4	Growing Together (Children, Family, Young Adults)
5	Learning Together
6	April at a Glance
7-11	Our Life Together Commission Updates

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www.seattlefirstbaptist.org

Seattle First Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle WA 98112

Phone: 206-325-6051

Staff onsite*: M-F 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Online: www.seattlefirstbaptist.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SeattleFirstBaptist/>

From the Pastor's Desk

Resilience and Resurrection

By Pastor Tim Phillips

One of my pandemic plans was to weed out my files and get rid of things that no longer served any purpose. This was one of many ideas that was a better goal than a reality. I did make minor headway and, in the process, discovered some things that were more meaningful now than when I stuffed them in a folder years ago.

One discovery was a study by The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology on resilience. What a coincidence (?) given our Lenten theme! The study surveyed 100 pastoral leaders and interviewed 22 who met the study's criteria for resilience. Your church staff discussed the findings and took time to consider our own "resiliency quotient." I mentioned in passing that there is a section on: "Resilience & Resurrection" and, as we come to the end of Lent and enter the season of Easter, perhaps this is the time for each of us to consider what "resurrection" looks like in the context of what we have learned – or experienced – of resilience.

Of course, resilience is the growth that can come out of "tolerable amounts of stress." But what if we are talking about resilience in the aftermath of trauma; when, as the study says: "... beliefs, values, and paradigms are undone by a traumatic event or a significant level of stress?" We can wonder if the current political chaos, COVID crisis, violence, and the shameless display of white supremacy qualifies as trauma. I suspect, for many, it does.

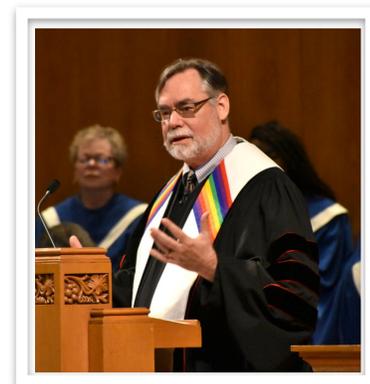
The study says:

Jesus' experience leading up to and on the cross is perhaps the epitome of traumatic events. He experiences betrayal from his disciple, condemnation from his religious leaders, brutality at the hands of the government authorities. He is sexually humiliated, physically abused, and spiritually forsaken; then he dies. Days later, he resurrects. When he first sees the disciples, he says "peace be with you" and shows them his wounds ... The resurrected Christ models truth about wounds and peace. He shows, without shame, the wounds of the worst thing that ever happened to him. He allows the meaning of the wounds to be manifest in his resurrected life: that transformation can happen after trauma, that wounds do not preclude new life, that resurrection is the way to resilience.

Sometimes I think I have tried to make Easter too tame. I want it to be palatable for folks who have deep honest doubts. I want it to address the mostly tolerable amount of stress those of us with privilege have come to take for granted.

But what if the study is right and Holy Week is about trauma and Easter is about a resurrection kind of resilience. Can we talk about betrayal and brutality and sexual humiliation and physical abuse and spiritual emptiness? Can we name our experiences of trauma and manifest our wounds in the testimony of how we got through – or were brought through – to new life? What kind of an Easter would that be?

Okay. So the resilience study did not make its way to the recycling pile. I'm holding on to it in the hope of resurrection.



Worship Together

Hopeful Re-Gathering News

From the Re-Gathering Team:

Joan Benner, Sue Ross, Rod Shutt, Darren Hochstedler, & Dick Steele

The SFBC Regathering Team is very excited to announce that SFBC currently hopes to resume in-person worship on Sunday, July 11. Prior to this date, the church office will open on April 6 and the building will be open to small group gatherings on May 17. Masks will continue to be required.

All of our dates are tentative. The reason for this is obvious. None of us has any control over the progression of the pandemic or what the CDC or Washington State mandate about indoor gatherings. We will only proceed when it is safe to do so. So just be aware that while our plans may be delayed (or possibly even accelerated), we believe the proposed date will allow us to enact prudent safety protocols to gather safely and comfortably. We anticipate that online events and worship will continue for those who are not ready to return to in person events.

We strongly encourage every member and friend of the church to get the vaccination at their earliest opportunity in consultation with their medical health care provider if necessary.

We are sure you will have many questions and we are only now beginning to work through what our initial return will look like. We've got a lot of questions too, but we have time and you have time. We hope you will use that time to stay healthy and to stay smart. We plan to have a written plan in place by June 1. In the meantime, we are preparing our buildings and working with Pastors, staff, and church leaders to determine what life at SFBC will look like during the summer as we return. We promise to keep you informed as we move forward.

Congratulations to Pastor Patricia!

Pastor Patricia Hunter has been appointed by the Seattle City Council to sit on the Community Police Commission (CPC). The CPC was created in 2013 after a federal investigation of the Seattle Police Department regarding bias and excessive force in policing among communities of color. The CPC continues to monitor and give input on SPD compliance of the Department of Justice Consent Decree that outlines mandatory reform. In addition to advising on police reform, the CPC is mandated to provide ongoing, community-based oversight of the Seattle Police Department and the police accountability system.



Thank you, Pastor Patricia for serving beyond the walls of SFBC.

Worship Together

Maundy Thursday April 1, 6 p.m.

Gather for a virtual meal, ritual and communion as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

All are welcome.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87980683285>

Meeting ID: 879 8068 3285

Click Here for a recipe for communion bread:

<http://bit.ly/sfbc-bread>



Good Friday Service for Kids April 2, 5:30 p.m.

Children and youth are invited to spend time together exploring the story of Good Friday through age-appropriate activities and conversations about feelings.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88071203806>

Meeting ID: 880 7120 3806

Good Friday Service April 2, 7 p.m.

A reflective and contemplative worship service on Zoom.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86374057203>

Meeting ID:

863 7405 7203



Learning Together

Bible Study in April

Thursdays at 12 p.m.

April 1 - No noon bible study, please join us for our Maundy Thursday gathering & meal online at **6 p.m.**

April 8, 15, & 22 - We will do Bible Study in the manner of Godly Play. Come prepared to wonder and ready to "work".

April 29 - We return to our regular Lectionary study with Psalm 23 & John 10:11-18

Celebrating Our Graduates! Sunday, May 23

Help us celebrate graduates in the SFBC community! From kindergarten to Ph. D, we want to celebrate your achievements! Email Pastor Anita at anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org to let her know who we should be celebrating on Sunday, May 23.

Please send a short description of the graduate, their achievement, and a photo.

Young Adult Fellowship

Friday, April 16, 7-8 p.m.

Gather with other Young Adults: Informal, come as you are, all are welcome.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89781179108>

Meeting ID: 897 8117 9108

Youth Group

Sunday, April 18, 5 p.m.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87290341239>

Meeting ID: 872 9034 1239

Next Generation Volunteers Needed!

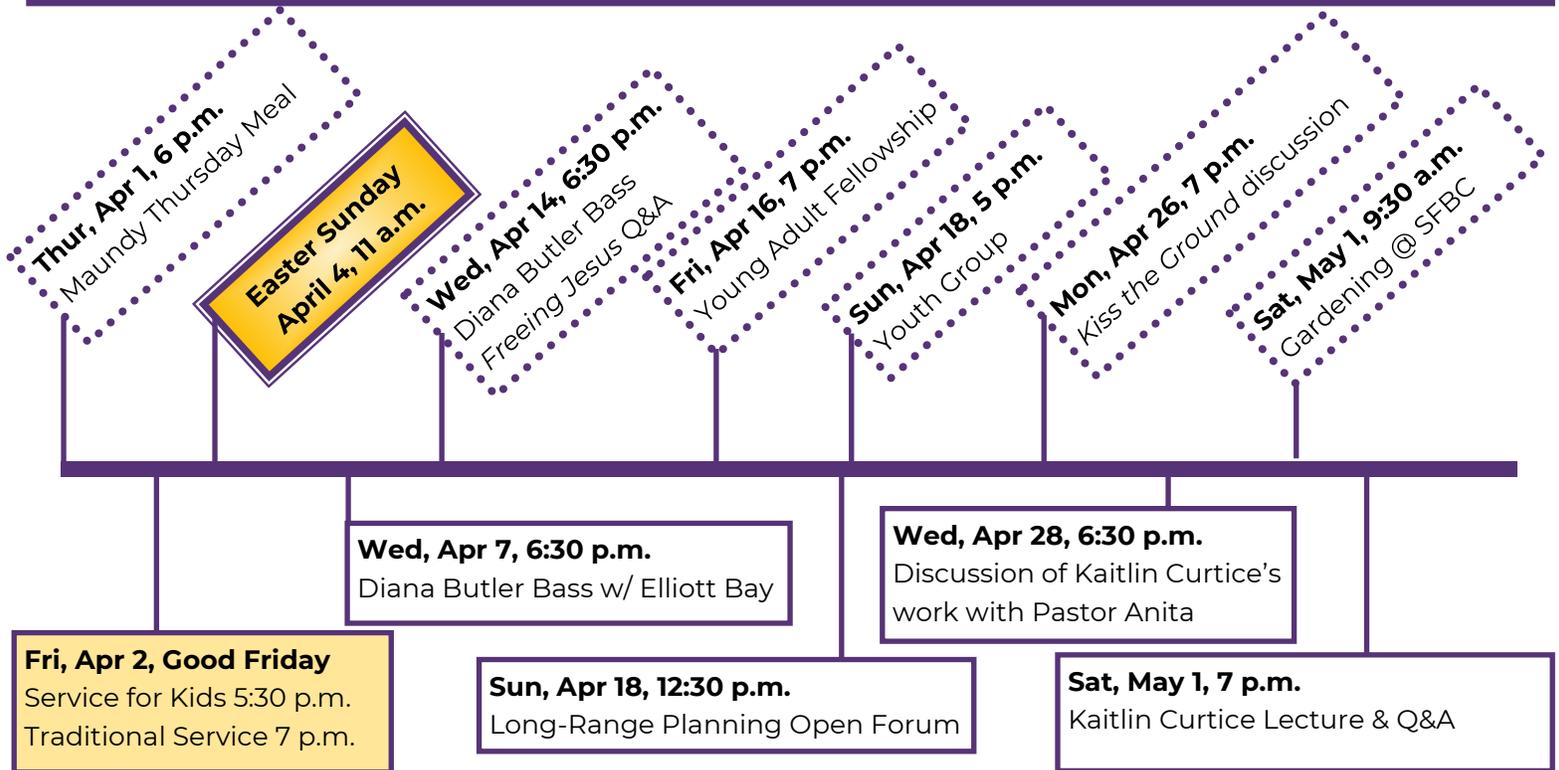
As we prepare to begin in-person church activities this summer, Next Generation Ministries needs YOUR help! Some examples of roles we will need:

- **Time with Children hosts:** If you would like to share a story or activity in 3-5 minutes during worship, Pastor Anita is reestablishing the list of teens and grown-ups to call on. Pastor Anita will work with you to prepare. All you need to bring is your imagination and willingness to share with our kids!
- **Wiggle Room steward during worship:** Hang out with kids in the Wiggle Room, manage simple activities (quiet arts and crafts, provided for the room).
- **Godly Play** (will be 9:30-10:30 a.m. beginning in September)
Storytellers will rotate. Training session planned for summer.
Shepherds, for set-up/clean-up and welcoming. Begin in fall.

If you are interested any of these activities, please reach out to Pastor Anita at anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org to talk about getting on the schedule.



April at a Glance



Regular Gatherings

Sundays:

10:30 a.m. - Godly Play
11 a.m. - Sunday Service
12 p.m. - Coffee Hour

Tuesdays:

12 p.m. - Prayer and Reflection with Pastor Patricia

Wednesdays:

6:30 p.m. - Community Gathering
7:30 p.m. - Music Programming

Thursdays:

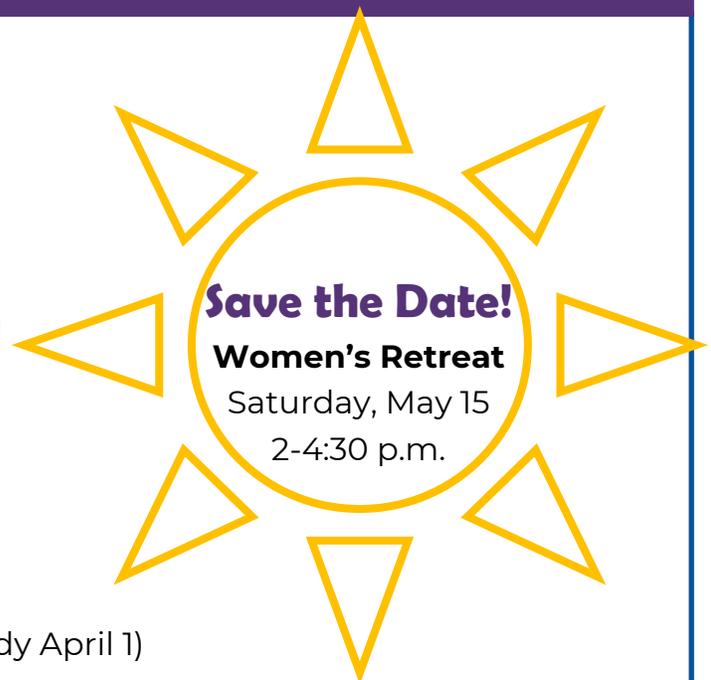
12 p.m. - Bible Study with Pastor Tim (no Bible Study April 1)

Fridays:

4:30 p.m. - Happy Hour

Zoom links and details can be found at our online calendar:

<https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/calendar>



Romney Lecture Series 2021 - Spring Kick-Off!

By Margaret Norton-Arnold

Beloved church community – the Romney Legacy Fund is pleased to sponsor several important events this spring, and they are coming right up!

Please log in with us to for these important and inspirational experiences. I hope to see all of your faces, even if it is only through Zoom. Let's remember that, in spite of our pandemic separation, it is still possible for our entire community to continue to grow and learn with each other. I know I speak for the entire Romney Legacy Community in expressing the privilege we feel to honor Dr. Romney through these events.

Please put these on your calendars:

Diana Butler Bass and her new book: *Freeing Jesus*

Dr. Bass has just published her twelfth book, *Freeing Jesus*. Here are three opportunities to learn more about, and discuss, this book with Dr. Bass. I know many of us are familiar with the work of Dr. Bass – she is one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality. In *Freeing Jesus*, Diana shares how her experience of Jesus has evolved over the years – viewing him as friend, teacher, savior, Lord, way, and presence. Her new book blends this personal experience with the historical and theological background that explores how Christians have experienced Jesus in a multitude of ways.

Diana Butler Bass, *Freeing Jesus*



Wednesday, April 7th - 6:30pm
SFBC co-sponsors lecture with Diana Butler Bass's new book *Freeing Jesus* with Elliott Bay Books

Wednesday, April 14th 6:30 - 7:30pm
Q&A with Diana Butler Bass on her new book *Freeing Jesus*

Sunday, April 18th - 11am
Online Worship with Guest Preacher Diana Butler Bass

Visit the SFBC Calendar to learn more and to register

Sponsored by the Romney Lecture Series

Wednesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m. - Lecture

This event is co-sponsored with Elliott Bay Books, and will be a lecture from Dr. Bass on *Freeing Jesus*. Register for the Zoom meeting on Eventbrite here: <http://bit.ly/sfbc-freeing-jesus>

Wednesday, April 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Q&A with Dr. Bass

This is an opportunity for our SFBC community to ask questions and engage in discussion with Dr. Bass. *Please look at the church calendar for how to register for this Q&A session.*

Sunday, April 18, 11 a.m. - Diana Butler Bass will be our guest preacher for worship that morning.

Learn More About SFBC at Diaconate Board Meetings Thursday, April 15, 7 p.m.

Diaconate Board meetings are a great way to learn more about the future and vision of SFBC, especially as we transition and lean into our Long-Range Planning. Save the date and join in! The meetings are every third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Open for all to come and listen. Notify the President at president@seattlefirstbaptist.org to receive the Zoom link.

Our Life Together

Honoring Indigenous Spirituality
and Undoing Christian Supremacy
with Kaitlin Curtice

May 1, 7pm May 2, 11am

Kaitlin Curtice will give our first Romney Lecture of 2021 about Christian hegemony and honoring indigenous spirituality, reflecting on her book *Native* (published in 2020).

Ms. Curtice joins us for a lecture on Saturday, May 1 at 7 p.m., including a Q&A, and then will be our featured guest preacher on Sunday, May 2.

Artwork by
Chief Lady Bird of Rama First Nation
Toronto, ON

Kaitlin Curtice - Romney Legacy Speaker Reflections and Discussion, May 1 and May 2, 2021

Kaitlin Curtice is an indigenous Christian author and speaker. As an enrolled member of the Potawatomi Citizen Band and someone who has grown up in the Christian faith, Ms. Curtice writes on the intersection of Indigenous spirituality, faith in everyday life, and the church.

Ms. Curtice travels the country speaking on faith and justice within the church as it relates to Indigenous peoples. In May 2020, she published her second book: *NATIVE: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*. During her time with us, Ms. Curtice will be reflecting on her own work, Christian hegemony, and the honoring of Indigenous spirituality.

Kaitlin Curtice has contributed to OnBeing, Religion News Service, USA Today and Sojourners, and she was

interviewed by the New Yorker on colonization within Christian missions. In 2018 she was featured in a documentary with CBS called "Race, Religion and Resistance," speaking on the dangers of colonized Christianity.

We are pleased to sponsor Ms. Curtice for two SFBC community events:

Saturday, May 1, 7:00 p.m. - Lecture and Discussion with Ms. Curtice

Please check the church calendar for how to register for this lecture and discussion.

Sunday, May 2, 11:00 a.m. - Ms. Curtice will be our guest preacher for worship that morning.

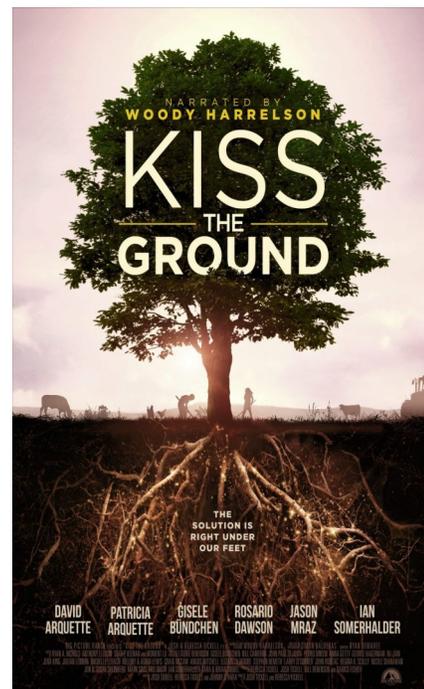
Kiss the Ground - A Shared Film Experience

Discussion via Zoom on Monday, April 26 at 7 p.m.

Learn how our mechanized agricultural system is worsening the global climate emergency by releasing carbon into the atmosphere – and how pioneering farmers around the world are using "regenerative agriculture" to put carbon back into the soil. Watch *Kiss the Ground* for free starting April 10, and join a Zoom discussion of what we've learned on April 26 at 7 p.m.

Contact Joan Bowers at jebbo102@gmail.com to register to see the film and receive the Zoom link. Registration opens April 1.

The free film showing is made available by Interfaith Power and Light. The discussion is a joint effort of Prospect Congregational United Church of Christ, St. James Cathedral, and the Seattle First Baptist Church-Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue partnership, *Interfaith Climate Action - First Hill*.



Our Life Together

Volunteer Projects at SFBC

Need to get out of the house on a beautiful day? We have a chance for a few physically distant volunteer opportunities at SFBC.

Gardening:

On Saturday, May 1, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. there is an opportunity for folks to help spruce up our flower beds on the corner of Harvard and Seneca. Mostly pruning, planting flowers and weed pulling. The church will provide all tools, plants and materials.

Spring Cleaning:

We will be planning several inside cleanup days in May and June. There is brass to polish, cobwebs and dust to clean, windows to wash, pianos to polish. Watch for dates and times to be together to show a little love to our building and get her ready to welcome all back inside.

To assist in any of these projects, contact Rod Tull through the church office at front_office@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

Wednesday Community Programming

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/543978086>

Meeting ID: 543 978 086

Join SFBC community members and leadership for a time of prayer and a brief program:

April 7: Diana Butler Bass Lecture with Elliott Bay

Register here: <https://bit.ly/sfbc-freeing-jesus>

April 14: Diana Butler Bass - Q&A with SFBC

Register here: <http://bit.ly/DBB-QA-reg>

April 21: Key Ministries Working Session

April 28: Kaitlin Curtice's *Native*: A conversation with Pastor Anita

Join Pastor Anita for a session introducing the work of May's Romney Guest Lecturer Kaitlin Curtice, focusing on indigenous spirituality and Christian hegemony.

COVID-19 & SFBC

We continue to monitor the situation in our region in order to ensure the safety and health of our community. We will be continuing services and gatherings online and our office will remain closed to the public for now. There will continue to be very limited staff on-site every weekday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. You may always reach the staff through their individual e-mails or contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

We are hopeful with the continued rollout of the vaccine, but also encourage you to follow our state's directives to continue masking and social distancing. If you would like someone to reach out, please don't hesitate to contact us at the email above.

Our Life Together

Get Involved with Our Long-Range Plan Activities

By Jim Segaar

In April members of the Congregation have two opportunities to be engaged in our Long-Range Planning work. Status reports are also published on the Long-Range Planning page of the SFBC website: <https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/long-range-planning>

All are invited to attend the following two Zoom meetings hosted by the Long-Range Planning Program Office:

- **Sunday, April 18, 12:30 p.m.** – Open Forum update on LRP Task Forces. All are welcome to come hear the latest status from our Long-Range Planning Task Forces and to ask questions of task force members.
- **Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m.** – Key Ministries working session. Come participate in this working session as we view the concept of Key Ministries, lay out the draft of SFBC's Key Ministries that we have so far, and take input regarding what they should be going forward. The current draft is on the site linked above.

Our task forces continue to do great work on our behalf. Following are updates on their activities:

Governance – The task force has reviewed our current bylaws and identified sections that need attention. They have drafted updated language about SFBC membership that more closely reflects who we are as a congregation. They are discussing new governance structures and observing how this year's modified Diaconate is functioning.

Pastoral Transition – Members have completed interviews with twelve past and present staff members dating back 10 to 15 years. They sent the Personnel Commission a list of characteristics, qualities, and talents they think are needed in an interim pastor. Work continues to develop a summary of key elements from the interviews. They are beginning to work on “develop an understanding of our key ministries and how they relate to pastoral and other staffing” and “understanding the staffing costs related to key ministries” as stated in the task force statement of work.

Senior Ministries – 38 surveys were returned for the team's consideration. They are collating a list of literature related to Senior Ministries read and reviewed. Work continues on reviewing the surveys and drafting a Purpose Statement. Also, under discussion are a “name” for Seniors, exploring a “Wisdom Series,” and Ageism in our church and in ourselves.

Anti-Racism – The group hosted an information session for all task force members and the Executive Committee on March 7. The task force also met with the Executive Committee regarding the concern that the Diaconate has no people of color this year when being anti-racist is a priority value. The task force will continue to urge other groups to listen to the voices of BIPOC as they do their work and make recommendations. A facilitator may be hired at a future date.

Facilities – Interviews with building users, stakeholders, and other churches (Bellevue Christian, Urban Grace in Tacoma, University Methodist Temple) have proceeded in earnest. The task force continues to explore the seismic issue, interviewing Darren Hochstedler, Bob Sittig and Dave Greene. Dave suggested hiring a construction company to do estimates of selected seismic work. Interviews coming up include Keith and Cindy Ervin of Interfaith Climate Action and representatives of Bet Alef. A tour of all our facilities is planned, as is a discussion about how the task force can make their work more anti-racist.

Small Groups – The task force has reviewed best practices from other churches and has also benefited by some research documents related to small group ministries. The group will continue to discuss big picture questions and is starting to focus in on possible sections for a “Strategic Overview” of a new small group ministry at SFBC.

Save the Dates for Camp Burton this Summer!



Camp Burton is planning on hosting summer camps once again this year as long as WA successfully enters Phase 3, and SFBC is excited to be a part of the magic that they create on Vashon. So save the dates, and get ready for some summer fun! Camp Burton offers a year-round multi-purpose site for individuals and organizations, within a naturally beautiful setting. It was established in 1909 by the American Baptist Churches, as a place for people to gather in fellowship. You will find that Camp Burton offers rates competitive with other retreat facilities in the Puget Sound area.

July 24-29: Grade School (Gr 2-5) - Faith Adventure Camp, Camp Burton

July 17-22: Middle School (Gr 6-8) - Faith Adventure Camp, Cascade Meadows

August 1-8: High School (Gr 9-12) - Teens Redeemed Adventure Camp, Includes camping/backpacking, plus "extreme element" like rafting, climbing, etc.

August 1-6: All Ages Family Camp - Family Camp, Camp Burton

Contact Pastor Anita at anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org or Patrick Green with questions or for information about scholarships.

2021 Officers and Church Leaders

For more information please contact the church at contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org

Executive Committee	President: Jim Ginn	Personnel	Theresa Pruett (Chair)
	VPr: Megan Walker		Sara Tollefson
	Treasurer: Bob Sittig		Peter Shafer
	Secretary: Dick Miller		Marsha Ulmer, Joyce Phillips
Church Home Operations	Rodhney Tull	CFYA	Mary Jeffers
Members at Large	Mike Zaugg	Stewardship	John Benner (Chair), Pat Kile,
	Metta Williams		Rebecca Morris, Erik Zaugg
Membership Engagement	Brent Marble	Music	Darla O'Brian
Adult Education	Martha Hopley	Outreach	Beth Reis
Worship	Sterling Morris		